(19~~5~~46) Department.

MS SERIES.

G.O. No. 1585

Dated 4.12.46

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Councils Question - Preparation of Electoral rolls on the basis of adult franchise - Papers recorded -

Please see the Legislative Council Question No.151(Starred by Sri P. Veerabhadraswami, M.L.C. on p.1. c.f.

On a suggestion from the President, Constituent Assembly of India in November 1947, the Government have examined the various problems involved in preparing electoral rolls on the basis of a dult suffrage. A tentative scheme has been formulated and sent to the Constituent Assembly on 5th February 1948 as desired by the President. This Government also sought clarification regarding disqualifications, residential qualification and the responsibility for the registration of voters. The Secretary to the Constituent Assembly has stated that after the views of the various Provincial and State Governments have been received, it may be necessary to call a conference of Provincial and States representatives to evolve some uniform method for preparing the electoral rolls and also to enable a general exchange of ideas on the subject. Further instructions from the Constituent Assembly are awaited. In the meanwhile, the scheme has been communicated to the Collectors, Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards, Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, Commissioners of Municipal Councils etc. for remarks. The remarks of some Collectors have been received and others are awaited. It is proposed to send any useful remarks offered by these officers to the Constituent Assembly. In this connection, it may be mentioned that Collectors have been asked to furnish the Superintendent of Stationery information regarding the approximate quantity of paper required for districts in connection with the preparation of rolls on the basis of adult franchise. On the basis of this information, the Superintendent, of Stationery will address the Govt. of India regarding paper requirements - see Memo.No.1085 /548-2, Public (Elections), dated 6-3-1948.

As regards clause (b), viz., combining the electoral and census operations, theConstituent Assembly has been informed that the word of preparing the roll on the basis of adult suffrage is in several respects similar to the work of preparing a census. The next census is due in 1951. The census is a ten yearly affair. Much of the value of census will be lost if the date is advanced and it is highly unlikely that the Government of India would be prepared to advance the date. Their instructions, if any, in this matter also may be awaited. It is, however, proposed on the suggestion of the Census Commissioner, to number the houses at the same time as the electoral rolls are drawn up. Preparing house lists is a important preliminary step of Census. If this is done at the time of preparation of electoral rolls, it will assist and simplify the census.

The answers to clauses (a) and (b) may perhaps be: "The instructions from the President, Constituent Assembly are awaited".

Subject to orders, a draft answer is submitted for approval. It may be circulated to H.M. (Finance).

(Sd.) xxx
C.S.

H.M.(Fin.) B.G.R.
22-3.

The question has been answered by H.M.(Fin.) on 22-4-1948 in the Council. The receipt of printed proceedings may be awaited (R.D.22.6.48).

(Sd.)xxx23/4

The relevant printed proceedings have not been received so far. This may continue to lie over until 22-7-1948.

xxx
23-6

P.T.O.

PREPARATIONOF VOTERS' LIST IN THE PROVINCE.

*61 Q.--SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state--

(a) what arrangements the Government are making to prepare voters' lists of all adults in the Province; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to have the preparation of the adults' lists as well as the census both at the same time to minimize expenditure?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:--"(a) & (b) Instructions from the President, Constituent Assembly, are awaited."

The cutting above of the proceedings relating to the L.C. question no.61 may be perused. No further action seems necessary. The papers may be recorded in a G.O. for facility of future reference.

(Sd.) xxx
29/6/48.

G.O.M.SNo.1585 dated 30-6-1948.

Abstract:

Legislative Council Question - Preparation of electoral rolls on the basis of adult franchise - Papers Recorded -

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Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.